

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 19667

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR ETRD SREF VM TH
SUBJECT: SRV DEPUTY PM HUYNH TAN PHAT STOPOVER IN BANGKOK

1. DURING AN OVERNIGHT STOPOVER IN BANGKOK JULY 11-12, VIETNAMESE DEPUTY PM HUYNH TAN PHAT CONFERRED FOR NINETY MINUTES WITH PM KRIANGSAK ON MAJOR BILATERAL ISSUES. PHAT IS ENROUTE TO IRAQ FOR IRAQI NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION. BUILDING ON EARLIER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE VIETNAMESE, KRIANGSAK AGAIN BROACHED THE SUBJECT OF REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN THAILAND FROM THE FRENCH INDOCHINA WAR. PHAT APPARENTLY AGREED TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS OF THE SUBJECT DURING A PROJECTED VISIT TO HANOI BY A THAI DELEGATION. KRIANGSAK AND PHAT ALSO DISCUSSED TRADE AND POSSIBLE THAI CONTRIBUTIONS TO VIETNAMESE RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS. KRIANGSAK TOLD THE PRESS THAT PHAT WAS INTERESTED IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, ESPECIALLY IRRIGATION CANAL SYSTEMS. KRIANGSAK SAID THAT THE TWO HAD NOT DISCUSSED SRV RELATIONS WITH CAMBODIA AND CHINA, BUT CONFINED THEIR
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DISCUSSIONS TO BILATERAL MATTERS.

2. MFA INFORMED US JULY 12 THAT THE SRV HAS INVITED A SENIOR DELEGATION TO VISIT HANOI TO DISCUSS BILATERAL ISSUES. DEPUTY FONMIN WONG POLNIKORN WOULD BE A GOOD CANDIDATE TO LEAD THE DELEGATION, HE ADDED. AS AGREED TO IN THE 1976 COMMUNIQUE ESTABLISHIN
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DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THAILAND AND THE SRV, VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION OF THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WHO FLED TO THAILAND IN THE EARLY 1950S WOULD BE A LOGICAL AGENDA ITEM. OFFICIAL MADE CLEAR, AS PM KRIANGSAK DID IN AN EARLIER PRESS CONFERENCE, THAT REFUGEES FROM VIETNAM SINCE APRIL 1975 WERE A SEPARATE QUESTION ALTOGETHER. KRIANGSAK TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT NONE OF THE RECENT REFUGEES WISHED TO BE REPATRIATED.

3. COMMENT: THE AMICABLE STOPOVER BY DEPUTY PM PHAT AND THE FRIENDLY ATTENTION OF TOP THAI OFFICIALS IS FAST BECOMING A NOTE-WORTHY PATTERN IN SRV-THAI RELATIONS.

4. DISCUSSION OF VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES FROM THE FRENCH INDOCHINA WAR HAS BEEN ON THE AGENDA SINCE BANGKOK AND HANOI BEGAN THEIR DIALOGUE IN 1976. OTHER SENIOR THAI OFFICIALS HAVE COMMENTED TO US RECENTLY THAT DISCUSSIONS ENVISAGED CONCERN ONLY THE EARLIER REFUGEES (OF THE FIFTIES), NOT THE REFUGEES SINCE APRIL 1975 , AND THAT ANY REPATRIATION WOULD BE VOLUNTARY.
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